

The Feedbag

Getting Connected



MoDOT & Patrol Employees' Retirement System

July 2016

Volume #1

Welcome to the first edition of *The Feedbag*, MPERS newsletter. MPERS has produced newsletters in the past but quite frankly our efforts have been sporadic and incomplete. With the debut of *The Feedbag*, we are refocusing our communication efforts with the hope of providing a semi-annual newsletter that not only provides useful information but also reminds you of the valuable benefit coming from the service you provide. Why do we call it *The Feedbag*? Many of you saw our recent distribution requesting "feedback" on how we are doing. As silly as that may have seemed, it got your attention, and several of you responded! We hope to keep your attention so we are running with the idea. If this still doesn't make sense, go to the "*How are we doing*" tab on our website and you will see our original distribution. Thanks for reading and keep on the lookout for more editions of *The Feedbag* in the future.

Did you know?

Approximately 4.6 million Americans work in the horse industry in one way or another. The US horse industry has an economic effect of \$39 billion annually on just nine million American horses. There are approximately 58 million horses in the world and the vast majority are cared for by humans. (Source: American Horse Council)

Defined benefits also play an important role in the sustainability of our economy. In 2012 nearly \$477 billion in pension benefits were paid to 24 million retired Americans. Expenditures made out of those payments collectively supported:

- 6.2 million American jobs that paid nearly \$307 billion in labor income;
- \$943 billion in total economic output nationwide;
- \$555 billion in value added (GDP);
- \$135 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenue.

Each dollar paid out in pension benefits supported \$1.98 in total economic output nationally. (Source: NIRS Pensionomics 2014)

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MoDOT & MSHP Total Wellness Program



The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) and Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) has partnered with Coventry Health Care of Missouri, Inc. to create a wellness program called MoDOT and MSHP Total Wellness. The goal of the program is to give you the knowledge, tools, and resources to help you improve your health and well-being. To learn more about the program or to be added to the monthly newsletters, please contact Robin Gammon at 314-506-1632. Or send an email to rlgammon@aetna.com.

Updating Member Personal Information

We often receive phone calls from active employees who wish to change their personal information. Please note that MPERS receives all active employee information via SAMII data feeds. Therefore, you will need to contact your payroll/HR representative through your employer to make the following changes:

- Marital status
- Address information
- Gender
- Date of birth
- Names

We ask that you let your payroll/HR representative know as soon as possible about any information changes as this information may impact your retirement.

Also, when updating information, don't forget to notify Deferred Compensation!

Upcoming Events

Pre-Retirement Seminars

July 27, 2016	Joplin
July 28, 2016	Springfield
August 10, 2016	Sikeston
August 24, 2016	Rolla
August 30, 2016	West Plains
September 15, 2016	Jefferson City



Secure Member Access

MyMPERS Secure Member Access is a 24/7 link to your personalized benefit information. When you create your account you will have instant access to information and services such as:

- Benefit service, which is the total amount of service credit which will be used to calculate your retirement benefit.
- The date you are first eligible to retire.
- Personalized benefit estimates that you can run at any time, for any eligible dates.
- Correspondence sent to you from MPERS – including your annual benefit statement.
- On-line forms, including the ability to submit your “Notice of Retirement,” which is step 1 of the 2-step retirement process.
- 2011 Tier only members – find the balance of your employee contributions, including any interest earned.
- Register for Pre-Retirement Seminars.
- Ability to determine how we contact you...via paper correspondence or email.



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MoDOT & Patrol Employees' Retirement System

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If you have not already done so, create your account today by accessing our website at www.mpers.org. In the top corner, click “myMPERS Login.” If you have any questions or trouble setting up or logging into your account, please feel free to contact our office and we'll be happy to walk you through it.

MPERS Announces New Assistant Executive Director



MPERS is pleased to announce that, effective April 4, 2016, Greg Beck has joined our staff as our new Assistant Executive Director. Mr. Beck was the Chief Auditor at the Missouri State Employees' Retirement System for 15 years, and prior to that, the Manager of Financial Management and Policy for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. He also spent almost three years in the capitol as a Program Evaluator for the Missouri General Assembly. Greg started his career in state government in 1988 as an auditor with the Missouri State Auditor's Office.

Mr. Beck has achieved several professional certifications such as the Certified Internal Auditor, Certified Public Accountant, Certified Information Systems Auditor, Certified Investments and Derivatives Auditor, Certified Fraud Examiner, and Certified Government Financial Manager. He is a member of the Institute of Internal Auditors, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Missouri Society of CPAs, the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, and the Information Systems Audit and Control Association. He was the president of the Association of Public Pension Fund Auditors as well as the past president, vice-president, and treasurer of the Central Missouri Chapter of the Institute for Internal Auditors (IIA).

Greg will be involved with most functions of the retirement office, but given his breadth of experience as an auditor, he will bring an emphasis to risk management to be sure we are practicing good stewardship of the resources our stakeholders have entrusted to us. We are happy to welcome Greg to MPERS and look forward to working with him.



Employee Contribution Interest for 2016 (2011 Tier Only)

For members of the 2011 Tier, interest will be applied to your Employee Contribution Balance effective June 30, 2016. The 2016 rate is 0.295%, and will be based on your account balance as of July 1, 2015. In order for members to receive interest on their employee contributions, they must be actively employed, or vested, on the last working day in June. Interest stops accruing when:

- an active member leaves state employment prior to becoming vested (10 years),
- the member retires, or
- the member passes away.

The interest rate is set by Section 104.1091.8, RSMo, and requires the interest crediting rate to be equal to a fifty-two week U.S. Treasury Bill rate. For more information please review our 2011 Tier Brochure on our website, or view your account balance at any time via your Secure Member Access account.



Meet Our Intern!



Recently, we were in need of some help updating our publications and website. Instead of creating a new position, we were fortunate enough to find Shelby LePage, the daughter of one of our members, who also just happens to be a graphic design student at Warrensburg! Shelby has been working with us this summer to help update the look of several of our publications, including this newsletter. Shelby will be a senior this upcoming year and will graduate from the University of Central Missouri in the spring. She is studying art and will graduate with a BFA in graphic design. Her hobbies include drawing and reading. We look forward to working with Shelby and to the improvements she will help us make.



Meet Your MPERS Benefit Specialist - Mary Jordan

I have worked for MPERS since the fall of 1997. I started as a secretary in the administrative office, worked my way through the payroll section and have been a benefit specialist for over 10 years. I made the decision several years ago to make educating our members on their retirement my career. I take pride in providing guidance to the employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation and the Missouri State Highway Patrol. While working with active employees takes a considerable amount of my time, I also work with surviving spouses and benefit recipients. Many times these

discussions are held during a very significant and sensitive time in their life and we must be very thorough with the topics discussed. That includes subjects that they never even thought about discussing.

As a benefit specialist, my primary duties are generally to provide the members of MPERS with all the information necessary to make informed decisions regarding their retirement benefits. This includes:

- Talking with new employees about the retirement and disability benefits provided by MPERS.
- Talking with employees about pros and cons to purchasing or transferring service.
- Talking with members as they are reaching retirement eligibility.
- Conducting Pre-Retirement Seminars. At these seminars we talk about all of the options and decisions that will need to be made at the time of retirement.
- Conducting Benefit Basics Seminars. These seminars are for employees earlier in their career.

One of the most common questions I am asked by members nearing retirement is “What should I do?”, “What would you do?” or “What do most people do?” Unfortunately, those are tough questions to answer. I can provide comparisons and the key differences to help them make the decision, but that is a decision that, ultimately, has to be made by the member. The elections you make at retirement should be specific to your situation and not be influenced by another person’s decisions. The earlier in a member’s career he/she can start planning for retirement, the better.

While the Pre-Retirement Seminars and Benefit Basics are a great way for members to learn about their benefits, sometimes people still need that “one-on-one” time to answer specific questions about their individual situations. That’s why we offer one-on-one counseling throughout the state. Our benefit specialists are also available to answer any questions you may have Monday - Friday, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm.



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